BENGALURU, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 21 | Humidity 73% Scattered Thunderstorms Sensex 76,456 | Nifty 23,326 | Gold 71,540 | Silver 88,892 | Dollar 83.58 | Euro 89.62 | GBP 106.41

Rs 100 per month is just additional burden on homeowners for service that anyway leaves a lot to be desired

WASTE TAKES ITS TOLL

'BBMP already collecting flat fee of Rs 360 from property tax payers'

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The proposal of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to collect a user fee of Rs 100 per month towards waste collection and disposal has drawn flak from residents and residents welfare associations across the city. Though there is a provision to collect the user fees from property owners as per the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules 2016, they feel that the proposal to collect the user fees of Rs 100 per month from the property owners would be a burden.

They have demanded that the BBMP Chief Commissioner withdraw the proposal and also urged the state government not to give its consent to the proposal.

Right To Information Study Centre Managing Trustee S Amaresh has written to the Chief Minister appealing him to not give consent to BBMP's proposal. "The BBMP has categorised properties as A B C D E and F and collects garbage cess along with the property tax every year. The proposal to collect the user fees of Rs 100 per month would be an additional burden on the property owners," the letter reads.

Stating that the proposed user fee is unreasonable, Bengaluru Residents Welfare Association Convener R Rajagopalan said the fees of Rs.100 per household and Rs 500 for commercial users (Bulk Waste Generators) is not a logical formula.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

"The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) should relook at grading and classifying waste generators as part of the funds allocated for survey, identifying the bulk waste generators and commercial users first, including PGs separately

— R Rajagopalan, Bengaluru Residents Welfare Association

WHAT, WHO DUNNIT?

We look at what role does Challenging Star have to play in tale of murder as fans, Sandalwood reel under shock

PAGE 3

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3 THINGS TO DO

01 Artistic reverence

Discover the profound connection between art and spirituality at the 'Ganga' exhibition featuring works by Yusuf Arakkal and Shibu Arakkal. Explore evocative canvases and captivating photographs capturing the essence of the sacred river. Don't miss this unique showcase of artistic legacy.
Where: 38 Maini Sadan, Mezzanine Level, 7th Cross, Lavelle Road
When: Ongoing till 10 July, 10 AM to 6 PM

02 Lens unveiled

Join an inspiring session with photographer Priyadarshini Ravichandran as she delves into the themes shaping her captivating work. Explore the depths of human connections and familial dynamics through her lens. Make sure to catch this enlightening discussion with the artist
Where: MAP Bengaluru, Mazumdar-Shaw auditorium, first floor
When: June 14, 6:30 PM

03 Diverse digital

Eive into the fascinating realm where the physical and digital worlds converge at 'Landscapes of the Phygital'. Attend an insightful exploration of how individuals with disabilities are shaping innovative experiences in digital spaces. Presented in collaboration with the Embassy of Switzerland India, Swissnex in India, Design Beku, and Point of View, this event promises engaging stories, videos, panels, and conversations that will broaden your perspective.
Where: MAP Bengaluru, Mazumdar-Shaw auditorium
When: June 19, 6:30 PM

A BlueGreen uru; innovative strategies for climate change

Bengaluru merges environmental units, launches Climate Action Plan to combat climate risks and involve communities in building resilience

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As the IT capital of India is soon losing its tag of 'Garden City of India,' plans are now underway to identify more green spaces. The BBMP is initiating a series of Mapathon events to engage local communities in utilising technology to identify potential green spaces in vacant sites. Currently, in its pilot phase in the Bommanahalli zone, this initiative will soon expand to cover all eight zones across the city.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, also in charge of Bengaluru City, has announced that Bengaluru will be joining the Cities4Forests platform, a global alliance encompassing over 95 cities. This membership will facilitate technical support and foster knowledge exchange with cities worldwide. Partnering with WRI India, Bengaluru becomes the fourth Indian city to join Cities4Forests. In a bid to tackle water scarcity, the Climate Action Cell is initiating a crowd-sourcing campaign to map open wells, historically integral to Bengaluru's water security. These identified wells will undergo rejuvenation following a scientifically developed standard operating protocol. Further information will be provided soon on the BBMP website.

Schools and colleges contirbute to Climate Action Plan

"I'll recruit passionate young individuals to aid in implementing climate actions on the ground and assist in the project preparation

– DK Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

In the previous year, BBMP merged its Horticulture, Forest, and Lakes wings into the Forest, Environment, and Climate Change Management Unit, showcasing BBMP's dedication to environmental causes and bolstering resilience against climate risks in Bengaluru. On November 27, 2023, BBMP launched Bengaluru's first-ever Climate Action and Resilience Plan (BCAP), making it the third city in India to adopt a global standard, data-driven, inclusive, and collaborative climate action plan. BCAP aims to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and build healthy, equitable, and resilient communities against climate change-induced hazards. The plan includes a GHG emission inventory and a Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment for Bengaluru. In partnership with more than 25 stakeholder agencies, approximately 266 initiatives spanning seven sectors were identified: energy and buildings, transportation, solid waste management, water, wastewater and stormwater management, air quality, urban planning, greening and biodiversity, and disaster management.

Shivakumar stated, "However, the Climate Action Cell's main challenge is coordinating activities across departments. Today, we're excited to introduce the 'Fellows of Climate Action Cell' program. It'll recruit passionate young individuals to aid in implementing climate actions on the ground and assist in project preparation to enhance resilience, adaptation, and mitigation efforts in Bengaluru. Each fellow will receive a stipend and work under the Cell's supervision. I encourage young professionals to seize this unique opportunity to collaborate with the government."

He emphasised the importance of community involvement, "Over 600 organisations are part of the Brand Bengaluru program, committed to citizen involvement in governance, incorporating everyone's input into solutions. Schools, colleges, corporations, and public sector organisations are keen on contributing to the Climate Action Plan. To foster closer collaboration, we're launching the 'Friends of Climate Action Cell' program. Any organization can join the Bengaluru Climate Action Cell and contribute. I urge RWAs and NGOs to join to transform Bengaluru into a BlueGreen Uru. We need your knowledge, passion, and efforts. You can register on the BBMP website; a link will be available soon," he said.

Cess on waste collection: That's a fast one, say citizens

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The clarification on the cess collected with property tax currently being replaced with this new fee should be made. The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) should relook at grading and classifying waste generators as part of the funds allocated for survey, identifying the bulk waste generators and commercial users first, including PGs separately. Several apartment complexes and gated communities have yet to adopt in-situ processing as well," said Rajagopalan.

He said the authorities should focus on these categories first and ensure enforcement i.e. fines are collected from those not in compliance. "This should help resolve their revenue shortfall for operations. For the individual households they should offer incentives to home compost and then create a tiered user fee tariff based on size of the household and other factors like property dimensions or units within a multi dwelling site etc. Low income housing and other segments of society should not be burdened with such a tariff and a formula needs to be specifically worked out for them," he said.

Prevalence of black spots makes citizens question effectiveness of waste management

Ashok Mruthyunjaya of Aam Aadmi Party said the BBMP has already been collecting the SWM cess approximately between Rs 300 and Rs 600 from each of the property owners in the city and the proposal to collect additional user fees is a burden on property owners. "We have already seen how badly garbage is being managed by the BBMP. There is no way citizens can benefit from such additional fees. The BBMP must instead reduce corruption within itself and increase property tax collection and use the money for scientific garbage management," said Mruthyunjaya.

Satish Rao, a social activist from Indiranagar, said the latest proposal does not make any sense. "For the last many years the BBMP has been collecting a flat fee of Rs 360 from the property tax payer which is collected under the heading number 8 of the Property Tax receipt. It is very clearly termed as SWM Cess. Besides this flat fee, the BBMP is also collecting cess under heading number 3 and this works out to 26% of the property tax. While the latest proposal is not a big amount, the logic behind it defies common sense," said Rao.

He said that the BBMP should look at itself in the mirror before making such arbitrary decisions. "The garbage pickup service and disposal all over Bengaluru is pitiful as evidenced by the number of black spots all over Bengaluru. Do a good job and every citizen would be happy to pay," he said.

Twist in story as hero comes under cloud

What is Challenging Star's role in tale of murder?

Darshan, and partner Pavithra Gowda, among 12 held in connection with murder of Renuka Swamy; investigation reveal escalating tensions and alleged abduction

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The Kannada film industry is in turmoil following the arrest of popular actor Darshan Thoogudeepa and his partner, Pavithra Gowda, in connection with a murder case in Bengaluru. The couple, along with 10 others, was arrested by police investigating the death of Renuka Swamy, a 33-year-old man whose body was found near Sumanahalli Bridge. They have been remanded to 6-day police custody. Police Commissioner B Dayananda confirmed the detainment, stating that the investigation is ongoing to determine Darshan's level of involvement.

The incident revolves around Renuka Swamy, an employee at an Apollo Pharmacy branch in Chitradurga. Allegedly, Swamy had sent derogatory messages to Pavithra Gowda, which escalated tensions. On June 9, Swamy was reported missing, and his body was later discovered in a drain in Kamakshipalya with visible physical injuries. A forensic report confirmed that Swamy was murdered.

"The deceased, a 33-year-old man named Renuka Swamy, was reportedly killed after allegedly sending inappropriate messages to Darshan's partner. Several individuals have been detained in connection with the case, and during questioning, they implicated Darshan, leading to his custody for further investigation," said the police.

"Three individuals confessed to the murder, claiming they acted on Darshan's instructions. This led to their arrest from their farmhouse in Mysuru

Reports indicate that three individuals confessed to the murder, claiming they acted on Darshan's instructions. This led to the arrest of Darshan and Pavithra from their farmhouse in Mysuru. They were brought back to Bengaluru for interrogation after Swamy's mother filed a complaint. The investigation suggests that Swamy was kidnapped from Chitradurga, assaulted, and then killed in Kamakshipalya. Darshan's involvement allegedly extends to orchestrating the abduction and assault, with his associates carrying out the fatal attack.

Adding another layer to the case, Raghavendra, also known as Raghu Darshan, the district president of Darshan's fans association, was also arrested. He is accused of helping transport Renuka Swamy from Chitradurga to Bengaluru. The police believe that Swamy was assaulted on June 8 by Darshan's associates following the derogatory messages sent to Pavithra Gowda.

This case has garnered significant attention, especially among Darshan's fans, who have rallied in support of the actor, causing "DBoss" to trend on social media. Despite the gravity of the allegations, Darshan's fanbase is demanding justice for their actor.

Darshan and other accused were taken to Bowring Hospital for medical tests before being produced in front of a magistrate on Tuesday in Bengaluru; Inset: fans seen protesting outside Annapurneshwari Nagar Police Station

Past records

Darshan's legal troubles are not new. In 2011, he was arrested for allegedly assaulting his wife, Vijayalakshmi, but was acquitted in 2013 after they reached a compromise. In 2021, he faced accusations of assaulting a waiter in Mysuru, and in 2023, the Forest Department registered a case against him and his farmhouse manager under the Wildlife Protection Act for posing with a bar-headed goose, a migratory bird. In 2022, a slipper was thrown at Darshan during a promotional event for his film Kranti.

The murder case has brought these past incidents back into the spotlight, raising questions about Darshan's conduct and public image. Despite his previous run-ins with the law, this case is the most severe, involving allegations of orchestrating a murder. As the police continue their investigation, they have increased security measures at Darshan's residence in RR Nagar to prevent any potential unrest among his supporters.

Ambulance carrying critically ill baby stopped by drunk men

A disturbing incident occurred near the Nelamangala toll plaza on Sunday, where an ambulance carrying a critically ill five-month-old baby was stopped by a group of allegedly intoxicated men. According to a statement released by Bengaluru Rural SP Mallikarjun Baldandi on June 11, an FIR has been registered, and an investigation is underway to determine if the accused were under the influence at the time. The police swiftly intervened at the scene, allowing the ambulance, driven by John, to continue its urgent journey to the hospital, where the baby received necessary medical attention.

The confrontation began after the ambulance, travelling at high speeds due to the baby's critical condition, overtook a car. Enraged at being overtaken, the men in the Innova pursued the ambulance for several kilometres before forcing it to stop at the toll plaza. Video footage taken by a passenger inside the ambulance, widely circulated on social media, shows the men verbally and physically assaulting the driver, demanding he exit the vehicle. Police officers at the toll plaza promptly intervened, taking control of the situation and ensuring the ambulance could proceed.

Konankunte cops nab thief, recover gold worth Rs 16.5L

An individual involved in a series of thefts has been arrested by Konankunte Police. Officers have recovered 235 grams of gold ornaments, valued at Rs 16,50,000, linked to 12 cases registered at various police stations across the city.

Additionally, Kumaraswamy Layout Police have apprehended four individuals in connection with multiple gold theft cases. They have recovered 174 grams of stolen gold chains, worth Rs 11,00,000, related to six cases in the city.

Furthermore, the Anti-Narcotics Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) has filed a case under the Foreigners Act against 20 homeowners. These homeowners are accused of renting their properties to foreign nationals involved in drug trafficking, in violation of the Foreigners Act.

Breach of marriage promise not rape: HC

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that a breach of promise to marry does not constitute the offence of rape.

The High Court made this ruling while hearing a petition filed by Santosh Shetty, a resident of Hakladi village in Kundapura taluk, questioning the charges levied against him and his family. Santosh currently resides in the United States and works as a supervisor at Royal Caribbean Group International Shipping Company in New Jersey. The case is based on an engagement that was called off due to differences between Santosh and the complainant.

Shetty had reached out to a woman from Kundapura taluk through a Shetty matrimonial site. He later met the woman, the complainant, on January 8, 2023, at the Hakladi temple.

Three days later, their engagement took place on January 11, 2023. Following these developments, the woman requested Rs 4 lakh from Shetty for investment in a fund. Shetty transferred the requested amount almost immediately. Despite ongoing discussions between both families, the engagement was called off, leading to the marriage being cancelled nearly seven months later.

The woman alleged in her complaint that before flying to New Jersey, Shetty, after noticing that no one was home, forced her to engage in sexual intercourse on the grounds that their marriage was agreed to be held on September 8, 2023.

Additionally, the woman accused Shetty's family of committing fraud by breaking their promise of marriage. The Kundapura Police investigated the matter and filed a chargesheet, leading Shetty to approach the High Court.

The petition filed by Shetty stated, "The documents appended to the charge sheet or the statements would nowhere drive home the point that on the evening of the day of the betrothal ceremony, the first petitioner had indulged in such acts that would become ingredients of Section 375 of the IPC for it to become an offence under Section 376 IPC for rape."

The petitioners argued that the incident narrated in the complaint is highly improbable, as the parents never left the house on the day of the engagement. They also noted that the marriage was called off due to repeated demands for money from the complainant. On the other hand, the complainant argued that the date of marriage was fixed, and invitation cards were printed. The impact of the cancellation on the family was so significant that it amounted to cheating.

A single-judge bench headed by Justice M Nagaprasanna, after examining the charges, noted that a false promise of marriage does not meet the criteria for the offence of rape.

The court observed that while Santosh had initially promised to marry, the engagement was annulled due to various reasons, and there was no indication that Shetty or his family had lured the complainant with false promises.

The court ordered the dismissal of the case, stating that its continuation would lead to misuse of the law. "This case does not fall under the allegation of fraud," the court said, highlighting that prosecuting such cases could lead to potential abuse of legal provisions.

—BMB

Lake View Road laid to unrest: Rain reduces it to mud track

As road laid three months ago has already come apart, officials throw onus into each others' courts; citizens want action as safety risks escalate

Muddy roads, potholes and open drains plague Lake View Road, posing risks to commuters

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> **The lack of footpaths on this road increases the risk of accidents for pedestrians, and the open drains only add to the complications**
>
> –Lalithamba B V, zonal leader

Citizens of Lake View Road in Doddanekkundi, Ward Number 85, Vibhutipura Extension, are grappling with infrastructure woes as the road, freshly laid just three months ago in March, has swiftly deteriorated amid the ongoing monsoon, posing risks to commuters with its muddy and slippery conditions.

Adding to the danger, the absence of a footpath and an uncovered roadside drain increases the risk for pedestrians. Despite numerous complaints lodged with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), citizens have not seen any remedial action taken.

A citizen expressed their frustration, saying, "We have been voicing our complaints for months, but our pleas seem to go unheard. With the monsoon, the situation is deteriorating rapidly. We urgently need the authorities to repair the road and make it safe for commuters. And the open side drain, which connects to the Rajakaluve, poses a significant risk, especially to children."

Despite repeated attempts to reach the Assistant Engineer (AE), citizens have not found a solution. Officials have cited jurisdictional constraints, noting that the road is classified as a major one, limiting their ability to intervene. The recent heavy rainfall in the city has worsened commuting as severe waterlogging damages roads, causing inconvenience to commuters.

Lalithamba B V, Governing Council Member and Zonal Leader of Bommanahalli expressed worries regarding the inadequate planning and implementation of infrastructure projects. "The lack of footpaths on this road significantly increases the risk of accidents for pedestrians, and the open drains only add to the complications. Such substandard works are the result of hurried execution of projects, which were carried out due to elections," she said.

Citizens are calling for attention from the authorities." We are tired of waiting for action. The road conditions are getting worse and it's only a matter of time before a serious accident happens. The authorities need to prioritise our safety." said a citizen.

BBMP earns praise for vigorous cleanup efforts

BBMP clears waste under Ejipura flyover; locals call for vigilance against nighttime dumping, stress responsible disposal

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The stretch under the flyover is free from garbage; Pourakarmikas removing old sofa set from the stretch under Ejipura flyover

The efforts of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Solid Waste Management Department to clear the waste dumped under the partially constructed Ejipura flyover have been widely appreciated.

On June 11, 2024, Bangalore Mirror published a story titled "Nice Trash Niche," highlighting the dire condition of the stretch between Ejipura Junction and St. John's Medical College Junction. The area has become a dumping ground for all types of waste, including old sofa sets, discarded by individuals.

"We have engaged 15 pourakarmikas to clear the waste on the stretch. We have been removing the waste in the morning but people continue to discard waste here,'' said BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer, Shashikala. She said measures would be taken to maintain cleanliness on the stretch under the flyover. "BBMP marshals will monitor the area to prevent waste dumping. Some individuals from nearby neighbourhoods have been disposing of garbage here on their way to work.,'' she said.

R Raghu, secretary of the Koramangala 4th Block Citizens Welfare Association, expressed his appreciation for the pourakarmikas, stating that he wanted to congratulate and commend them for clearing the waste along the stretch. "We have no complaints against pourakarmikas who have been working hard to keep the stretch clean. The issue lies with those who dump garbage at night. They should not dispose of waste here. It is their responsibility to hand over their garbage to the pourakarmikas who collect it from door to door,'' he said.

Anil Kumar, a citizen, stated that he wants the BBMP to maintain the area. "I am happy to know that BBMP Solid Waste Management engaged pourakarmikas to remove garbage from the stretch under the incomplete flyover,'' he said.

Bangalore Mirror

Old furniture, debris, plastic waste spill out from under incomplete Ejipura flyover onto road that has already shrunk due to barricades put for work that has been going on for a decade

NICE TRASH NICHE

Pourakarmikas keep place clean, but trashing relentless

BBMP spoke about the accumulation of garbage under Ejipura flyover on June 11, prompting action against rampant waste dumping

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Problems in your area?
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Cattle chaos
Kumaraswamy Layout

Daily traffic congestion occurs on Kumaraswamy Main Road because cows are left to graze near the police station. The police should seize the cows to hold the owner accountable.

Park blockade
HSR Layout

A car obstructs the entrance to the public park in HSR Layout Sector 6, causing inconvenience to elderly visitors.

Market mayhem
KR Puram

The vicinity near the KR Puram bus stop and market remains congested due to autos and illegal shops encroaching on the roads.

Somanna, Karandlaje assume charge as ministers in Modi 3.0

Union Minister of State (MoS) of Ministry of Jal Shakti, and Ministry of Railways Veeranna Somanna along with MoS of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Ministry of Labour and Employment Shobha Karandlaje on Tuesday assumed charge at their respective ministers in New Delhi.

"I began my work with the blessings of the late Shivakumara Swamiji and the late Balagangadharanatha Swamiji," Somanna said after assuming the charge.

Bagalkot MP PC Gaddigoudar and former MPs GS Basavaraju and Umesh Jadhav were present on the occasion when Somanna assumed new responsibilities at the ministry.

Shobha Karandlaje, after assuming charge of her ministry, said that she looks forward to working with her new team for the betterment of the country.

V Somanna took charge as Union Minister of State of Ministries of Jal Shakti and Railways while Shobha Karandlaje took over as MoS of Ministries of MSME and Labour

Meanwhile, Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel HD Kumaraswamy said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has trusted Karnataka leadership with important ministries.

"We will not only bring revolutionary changes in Karnataka but will also work honestly and successfully to bring changes at the national level," he stated.

Somanna also thanked Kumaraswamy for the wishes, saying that he would like to have the same coordination with the JD-S Chief in future as well. —IANS

Your Chance to win today
Hello, dear readers. It is Wednesday, and it is that time of the week when we ask you a question to get to know you better and also to hand out some goodies. Here is your question:
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IN BRIEF

Civic workers take up poster removal task

After some pourakarmikas were seen removing illegal posters, citizens rejoiced, but the Joint Commissioner of solid waste management has made it clear that the department has not authorised them to do this.

It was during a regular street cleaning that a team of pourakarmikas in Whitefield were seen pulling down illegal posters from poles. According to residents of the area, pourakarmikas are asked to clean the streets twice a week, remove any dry waste left on the roads and sweep the roads, along with which they had taken up poster removal too.

"Last week, we had a discussion with the engineers of BBMP regarding this. Pourakarmikas are seen cleaning the roads and we asked if they could remove the posters. Every time we would complain about the posters, the ward engineers would conduct special drives and the posters would be back soon after. The AEE has given standing instructions to pourakarmikas to remove the posters," said Sandeep Anirudhan of Whitefield Citizens Ward Committees.

The Joint Commissioner of SWM told BM the department had not authorised this. "We have not asked pourakarmikas to remove posters. In fact, we had issued a recent order asking pourakarmikas to not be tasked with any other work that their designated work," said JC SWM, Pratibha R. As per the order, the pourakarmikas are to be only tasked with road sweeping and cleaning. BBMP's SWM department has nearly 18,500 pourakarmikas and 587 mustering locations. —Melvin Mathew

Pay your taxes or repent later

No extension for one-time settlement for taxes; from August 1 all left out to be deemed as defaulters

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has said that it will not extend the one-time settlement (OTS) scheme beyond July 31 and so all defaulters need to pay their taxes or face the music later. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar urged everyone to pay up as the OTS scheme provides 50% concession on penalties and 100% concession on interest payments. He said around two million properties are within the tax bracket, but many are still outside of the tax bracket. "If those outside the tax bracket pay taxes and submit proof within 90 days, we will provide them with a property tax account. More than 50,000 people have paid taxes under the OTS scheme and another 4 lakh are yet to pay. They will be deemed defaulters from August 1."

According to BBMP officials, property tax stands as the main revenue source for the BBMP, crucial to sustain our city's operations. Currently, approximately 4,00,000 citizens have outstanding property tax dues totaling around Rs 1,000 crore. To address this issue, the Government of Karnataka introduced the OTS. This scheme not only waives off interest on arrears but also reduces penalties for defaulters by half.

Officials urged all citizens to seize this opportunity and clear their property tax arrears to become compliant with regulations. Additionally, the BBMP Act contains provisions for recovering property tax arrears and dues. However, the OTS initiative is seen as a mutually beneficial effort between the Government and the BBMP, designed to assist citizens in resolving their tax issues. Regarding property digitisation, Shivakumar said efforts are underway to digitise 2 million properties.

Currently, around 800,000 properties have been digitised, and the remaining are expected to be completed within the next three months.

'Seize' efforts

The BBMP is currently planning to intensify its efforts to collect property taxes from residents who have not paid. An official mentioned that previously, revenue officers were preoccupied with election duties, but now that the elections are over, they are shifting their focus to collecting outstanding taxes. To streamline this process, targets for tax collection have been set for officials across various zones.

In the ongoing fiscal year, the BBMP has managed to collect a total of Rs 1,240 crore in taxes. This amount includes contributions from different zones, such as Rs 91.36 crore from Yelahanka, Rs 271.65 crore from Mahadevapura, Rs 42.86 crore from Dasarahalli, Rs 88.79 crore from RR Nagar, Rs 141.44 crore from Bommanahalli, Rs 214.83 crore from Bengaluru South, Rs 148.85 crore from West Zone, and Rs 240.28 crore from East Zone. An official said, "By setting targets for officials and focusing on post-election tax collection, the BBMP aims to improve its revenue collection efficiency."

AROs to face music for flex menace

The resurgence of banners has prompted the state government to advocate for stringent measures. DK Shivakumar pointed to his own experience of being fined Rs 50,000 by BBMP for unauthorised posters on his behalf. Now, plans are underway to hold Assistant Revenue Officers (AROs) responsible for any flex banners within their wards, as they are expected to be aware of activities in their areas. To facilitate reporting, the public can lodge complaints via the BBMP helpline at 1533 or share details on WhatsApp at 9480683939.

> **By setting targets for officials, BBMP aims to improve its revenue collection** –Official

Khadria Masjid leads way in rainwater harvesting

Innovative project aims to reduce Cauvery water dependency and boost groundwater levels, setting a model for others to follow

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Launch of rainwater harvesting & Wudhu Water (Ablution) conservation at Khadria Masjid on World Environment Day

For the first time, an attempt is being made to harvest rainwater at Khadria Masjid near Cantonment Railway Station in the city. If successful, the initiative will not only reduce the dependence on Cauvery water used for ablution by people who visit Khadria Masjid to offer prayers but also increase the groundwater table, benefiting the residents around Khadria Masjid.

"On average, two to three litres of water is needed per person for ablution. Harvesting rainwater will reduce our dependence on Cauvery or borewell water. We want to utilise the vacant land at Khadria Masjid for harvesting rainwater by digging rainwater harvesting pits," said Professor Inayatullah, Director of the Water Institute at Bangalore University.

The members of the Jumma Masjid Trust Board celebrated World Environment Day on Monday.

"In Khadria Masjid, we have observed alarming trends indicating a decline in water availability, particularly during dry seasons and Ramadan when the usage increases multifold. This not only impacts our daily lives but also threatens the sustainability of local agriculture, biodiversity, and overall ecosystem health. To mitigate these issues, we believe that the implementation of a comprehensive water conservation project is crucial," said SS Afsar Khadri, Chairman of the Jumma Masjid Trust Board, Bangalore.

He explained that the rainwater harvesting project includes creating awareness among residents by organising programmes about the importance of water conservation and simple practices they can adopt to reduce water usage. The programme suggests investing in upgrades to water distribution systems to minimise leaks and losses, as well as promoting the installation of water-saving devices in households and businesses. It encourages water-efficient landscaping practices to reduce outdoor water consumption and promote the collection and storage of rainwater for non-potable uses such as irrigation and landscaping.

> **We want to utilise the vacant land at the Masjid for harvesting rainwater by digging pits**
> –Prof Inayatullah, Director, Water Institute, Bangalore University

"By undertaking these initiatives, we can not only alleviate immediate water shortages but also foster a culture of responsible water stewardship that will benefit present and future generations. And this will set a model for other religious places to follow," he said.

Head out and spend more time at the park

City extends park hours from 5 am to 10 pm; new tree census and sapling initiatives aim to boost green cover

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Bengaluru, home to more than 1,200 parks—possibly the highest number in any Indian city—has decided to keep these green spaces open all day. Previously, most parks were only accessible for a few hours each day, but that's about to change.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar announced, "Parks are vital lung spaces where citizens enjoy walking, jogging, exercising, socialising, and provide essential shelter for outdoor workers during adverse weather conditions. Public demand to keep the parks open all day has been overwhelming because they are such valuable and necessary green spaces. As a government that listens to its citizens, we are making this change to bring more happiness to our community. Starting now, all BBMP parks will be open from 5 am to 10 pm, instead of the previous hours of 5 am to 10 am and 1:30 pm to 8 pm. We are committed to making our Garden City more inclusive and vibrant. I urge all responsible citizens to help maintain our parks by working with the BBMP."

This decision marks a significant step towards fostering a more inclusive and active community in Bengaluru, ensuring that everyone has ample opportunity to enjoy the city's beautiful green spaces.

He continued, "Last year, BBMP planted one lakh saplings and distributed 50,000 saplings to the public. In this initiative, 250 schools participated, and their students planted 52,000 saplings. Moreover, the schools and students signed agreements to care for these trees in the coming years. To support this effort, we have developed a website and mobile application for children to monitor the health of their plants. This year, we are raising our targets, aiming to plant two lakh saplings by involving even more schools and children. We plan to partner with 250 schools, targeting around 75,000 students, with the remaining saplings being planted with the help of police and the public. So far, 25,000 saplings have already been distributed, with another 25,000 to be distributed soon."

> **Parks were only accessible for few hours each day, but that's about to change**

Tree Census

The BBMP has called for tenders to conduct a comprehensive tree census across Bengaluru. Eight tenders have been issued, and the work is well underway. So far, 94,000 trees have been enumerated, with two wards in the Bommanahalli zone—Vidyapeeta and Katriguppe—fully completed, accounting for 4,600 and 4,300 trees, respectively. This extensive exercise is set to be completed within the current financial year, aiming to provide a detailed inventory of Bengaluru's green cover and inform future conservation efforts.

BM Education

ABBS Hosts Intercollegiate Fest REGALIA 2024

Acharya Bangalore B-School (ABBS), an autonomous institution affiliated with Bangalore University, proudly hosted its annual intercollegiate fest, REGALIA, on June 7th and 8th. The two-day event was a lively celebration of talent, creativity, and camaraderie.

The festivities began on Day 1 with a grand inauguration ceremony, setting an exciting tone for the event. Highlights of the day included a solo singing competition and a variety of co-curricular activities such as jingle writing, nail art, and BGMI. The day concluded with a memorable valedictory ceremony at Ratnam.

Day 2 continued the celebratory spirit with a series of cultural events, including solo and group dance performances and a captivating ramp walk. The event was graced by actor Anish Tejeshwar and director Abhishek Shetty, with a special appearance by RJ Pradeep adding to the excitement.

The overall championship trophy was awarded to KLE College, Bangalore, marking a fitting end to the fest. Promotions for two films added to the festive atmosphere.

REGALIA 2024 saw enthusiastic participation from several colleges, with well over 1,000 students attending. Driven by students, the event provided a fantastic platform for participants to showcase their talents, making it a resounding success. Bangalore Mirror served as the media partner.

—BMB

HEALTH TIP: Start your day right with a morning ritual. Set off on a small walk, or sit down and meditate for a short while

Pineapple and its compounds may help reduce the risk of cancer by minimising oxidative stress and reducing inflammation

MEET THE AMBIVERT

Not quite an introvert or an extrovert?

Our personalities are generally thought to consist of five primary factors: openness to experience, conscientiousness, extroversion, agreeableness and neuroticism, with each of us ranking low to high for each.

Those who rank high in extroversion, known as extroverts, typically focus on their external world. They tend to be more optimistic, recharge by socialising and enjoy social interaction.

On the other end of the spectrum, introverts are more likely to be quiet, deep thinkers, who recharge by being alone and learn by observing (but aren't necessarily shy).

But what if you're neither an introvert or extrovert – or you're a bit of both? Another category might fit better: ambiverts. They're the middle of the spectrum and are also called "social introverts".

What exactly is an ambivert?

The term ambivert emerged in 1923. While it was not initially embraced as part of the introvert-extrovert spectrum, more recent research suggests ambiverts are a distinct category.

Ambiverts exhibit traits of both extroverts and introverts, adapting their behaviour based on the situation. It may be that they socialise well but need solitude and rest to recharge, and they intuitively know when to do this.

Ambiverts seems to have the following characteristics:

1. good communication skills, as a listener and speaker
2. ability to be a peacemaker if conflict occurs
3. leadership and negotiation skills, especially in teams
4. compassion and understanding for others.

Some research suggests ambiverts make up a significant portion of the population, with about two-thirds of people falling into this category.

What makes someone an ambivert?

Personality is thought to be 50 per cent inherited, with the remaining being influenced by environmental factors and individual experiences.

Emerging research has found physical locations of genes on chromosomes closely aligned with extroversion-introversion traits.

So, chances are, if you are a blend of the two styles as an ambivert, one of your parents may be too.

What do ambiverts tend to be good at?

One area of research focus in recent decades has been personality type and job satisfaction. One study examined 340 introverts, extroverts and ambiverts in sales careers.

It has always been thought extroverts were more successful with sales. However, the author found ambiverts were more influential and successful.

They may have a sales advantage because of their ability to read the situation and modify their behaviour if they notice a customer is not interested, as they're able to reflect and adapt.

Ambiverts stress less than introverts

Generally, people lower in extroversion have higher stress levels. One study found introverts experience more stress than both ambiverts and extroverts.

It may be that highly sensitive or introverted individuals are more susceptible to worry and stress due to being more perfectionistic.

Ambiverts are adept at knowing when to be outgoing and when to be reflective, showcasing a high degree of situational awareness. This may contribute to their overall wellbeing because of how they handle stress.

What do ambiverts tend to struggle with?

Ambiverts may overextend themselves attempting to conform or fit in with many social settings. This is termed "overadaptation" and may force ambiverts to feel uncomfortable and strained, ultimately resulting in stress or burnout.

But personality traits aren't fixed

Regardless of where you sit on the scale of introversion through to extroversion, the reality is it may not be fixed. Different situations may be more comfortable for introverts to be social, and extroverts may be content with quieter moments.

And there are also four other key personality traits – openness to experience, conscientiousness, agreeableness and neuroticism – which we all possess in varying levels, and are expressed in different ways, alongside our levels of extroversion.

There is also evidence our personality traits can change throughout our life spans are indeed open to change.

(By Peta Stapleton, Bond University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Study finds evidence of heart stress due to exposure to heat

Exposure to heat was found to stress the heart of adults by increasing the blood flow to the organ's walls, according to a new study. The researchers also found evidence of obstructed blood flow induced because of the heat in some of the adult participants with heart disease, even though they did not display symptoms externally.

The researchers, including those from Canada's Montreal Heart Institute, said these adults may benefit by staying cool to counter the heat's stress on their hearts.

For the study, published in the journal Annals of Internal Medicine, the team recruited 61 adults -- 20 healthy young adults, 21 healthy older adults and 20 older adults with coronary artery disease (CAD) -- to see how exposure to extreme heat impacted the heart.

CAD is a condition in which blood vessels supplying to the heart are narrowed because of plaque buildup, thereby limiting blood flow.

The researchers artificially raised the core body temperature of the participants by 1.5 degrees Celsius and measured their myocardial blood flow (MBF) - blood reaching muscles of the heart wall - before exposure and also at every increase of 0.5 degrees Celsius to their core temperature.

The authors found that blood flow to the heart muscles increased in all participants when their body temperature increased by 1.5 degrees Celsius.

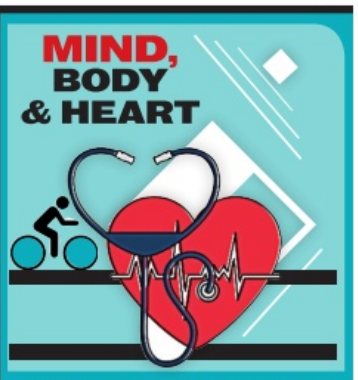
Using imaging techniques, the authors further observed that seven of the participants with CAD experienced heat-induced myocardial ischemia in which blood flow to the heart is obstructed due to blockage in vessels. The participants, however, did not outwardly show symptoms of the condition.

In an accompanying editorial from Annals of Internal Medicine and the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine (US), the researchers said that exposure to heat can significantly stress the heart by inducing a supply-demand mismatch in vessels.

With temperatures around the world on the rise, identifying vulnerable people with conditions of the heart and blood vessels is imperative, it said.

Repeated exposures can result in "symptomatic or silent" blood flow problems, which could partly explain the increased risk for adverse cardiovascular events observed because of heat exposure in population studies, it said.

— PTI



All you need to know about...

Manifesting love

Can you do it?

Now, if you're in your 'corporate girl era' or – like the GenZ are saying it – 'looking for a man in finance, trust fund, 6ft 5, blue eyes,' we've got great news for you: Yes, you can absolutely manifest love in your life. It all boils down to intentions, and not the casting-a-love-spell kind you're thinking.

Look into self

"Manifesting love involves self-improvement and nurturing emotional wellbeing rather than trying to control others," advises our expert Archana Singhal, therapist with Mindwell Counsel. "It's about evolving into your best self and fostering a positive atmosphere where healthy relationships can blossom naturally."

Steps

Begin by clearly defining the type of relationship you desire and the qualities you seek in a partner. What kind of person are they? What traits do they have? What kind of job are they doing? Be as specific as possible.

Harness the power of positive affirmations such as 'I am worthy of love' and 'I attract fulfilling connections'. Visualise your ideal partner, imagine scenarios such as grabbing coffee or strolling home from work together, and immerse yourself in the fantasy.

Remember, manifestation requires both the right mindset and proactive steps. Join a social group, try online dating – create opportunities for love to enter your life.

Don't forget, manifesting love isn't just about finding someone; it's equally about nurturing your love for yourself. Make intentional efforts to embody the qualities you seek in a partner. Only by cultivating self-love can you pave the way for a fulfilling relationship with the love of your life.

—Femina

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Balaji, son of Shri. Balakrishnan, resident of G-103, Deja View Homes, Nagavarapalya, CV Raman Nagar, Bangalore-560093 have changed my given name from Balakrishnan Balaji to Balaji and my surname to Balakrishnan vide Affidavit dated 23 Jun 2023 before the Government of India Notary (Reg No-12333).

I, Mohammed Ali Shaikh Parvez S/o Shaikh Parvez R/a #150/1, 2nd main, 3rd cross, Doddanna Lane, Venkateshpuram, Bengaluru-560045 have changed my Name to Mohammed Ali Shaik Parvez vide affidavit dated 10.6.2024 before Notary K. Venkateshan, Bangalore.

I, Harini Chandrashekar W/o Rahul Radhakrishnan R/at No.203, Vineyard Jasmine, 10th Street, Bank Avenue, Horamavu, Kalyananagar, B'luru-560043 have changed my name from Harini Rahul to Harini Chandrashekar Vide Affidavit Dated 11/06/2024 Notary Uday Kumar K, BLR.

I, MANOJ KUMAR R/O No: 45/2,Pitru krupa, Govindappa road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore- 560004, Karnataka have changed my name from MANOJ KUMAR M JAIN to MANOJ KUMAR

I, Alamgir Badsa Shaikh S/o S K Azizul Hoque R/o 85, EWS KHB Colony, 3rd cross, 1st stage, Udayagiri, Mysuru 570019 today camp at Bengaluru have changed my name to Sekh Kaaba Alamgir Badsa Affidavit Dt.11/06/2024 notary Harisha G, Bengaluru

I, Priyanka Bhagat D/O, Sharad Kumar Churiwala R/o No Wr 901 Trivik Windwalk Veersagara Main Road Attur Layout Yelahanka Bengaluru 560064 have changed my name to Priyanka Churiwala for all purposes.

I, Debrupa Banerjee R/O 4212, Casa Serenita, Sobha City, Thanisandra Main Road, Hegde Nagar, Bangalore North, Bengaluru Karnataka - 560077 have changed my name to Debrupa Anjankumar Banerjee.

I, Kumar G V S S/o Ramulu G R/o 1744, 2nd floor, 19th A main, India petrol bunk, Sector-2, HSR Lyt, Bengaluru 560102 have changed my name to Venkat Sathyendra Kumar Golla Affidavit Dt.03/06/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Gautam Jaganatha Gupta S/o Jaganatha Gupta, R@ No. 293 8th Main Rd BCC Layout, Vijayanagar B'luru-560040 have changed my name to Gautam Jagannatha Gupta for all purposes.

I, Radhika Anilkumar Dhonti W/O, Anil Kumar Donthi R/o 3000 Kr Road 17th Cross Banashankari 2nd Stage have changed my name to Radhika Donthi Anil for all purposes.

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ADMISSION OPEN

3 steps to get heavy metal out

IISc researchers find new way to remove heavy metals from groundwater

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Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a process for removing heavy metal contaminants such as arsenic from groundwater.

Researchers say the three-step method also ensures that the removed heavy metals are disposed of in an environment-friendly and sustainable manner, instead of sending untreated heavy metal-rich sludge to landfills from where they can potentially re-enter groundwater.

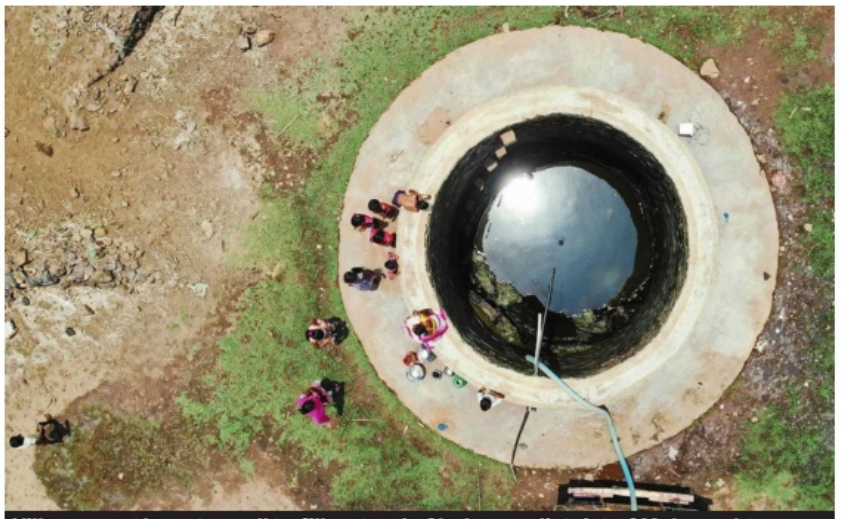
"In every technology that exists, you can take out arsenic and provide clean water. However, after you remove the arsenic, you must do something about it so that it doesn't re-enter the environment, and that aspect is not given due consideration in existing methods. Our process was designed to solve this problem," says Yagnaseni Roy, Assistant Professor at Centre for Sustainable Technologies (CST), the lab that has developed the method.

High levels of arsenic

According to a recent report by the Central Ground Water Authority, 113 districts in 21 states in India have arsenic levels above 0.01 mg per litre while 223 districts in 23 states have fluoride levels above 1.5 mg per litre. These values are above the permissible limits set by the Bureau of Indian Standards and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Steps in the process

The first step in the process involves passing the contaminated water through a bed of biodegradable adsorbent doped with bimetallic (Fe and Al) hydroxide/oxyhydroxide. The adsorbent bed grabs the toxic inorganic arsenic. A novel aspect of the technology is that the alkaline wash – used to repeatedly regenerate the adsorbent bed after its saturation – is recycled within the scheme.



Villagers gather at a well to fill water, in Shahapur district of Maharashtra

> **After you remove the arsenic, you must do something about it so that it doesn't re-enter environment** –Yagnaseni Roy, CST

In the second step, the alkaline wash solution, which is essentially sodium hydroxide and arsenic in water, is taken to a membrane system to separate the two. While the sodium hydroxide solution is taken back to regenerate the bed, the arsenic concentrated in the other stream is now ready to be taken to the third step: bioremediation. The membrane process serves to concentrate the arsenic ahead of bioremediation.

During bioremediation, the toxic inorganic arsenic is converted to low-toxicity organic arsenic (50 times less toxic) via methylation by microbes found in cow dung. This results in a decrease of toxic inorganic arsenic to below the maximum permissible limit specified by WHO standards, within eight days. The remaining cow dung sludge can be safely disposed of in landfills since the arsenic is locked in it in an organic form.

Other heavy metals

The system can also be adapted to remove fluoride, with the last step changed to precipitation to form calcium fluoride, which has very low solubility in water. Roy's team is currently checking the feasibility of tackling other heavy metals using the same system.

Researchers say the system is easy to assemble and operate.

Manufacturing the adsorbent material involves a simple recipe. In the lab, a small pilot-scale adsorption column system was able to generate safe drinking water (by WHO standards) for two people for three days. The researchers have been working with INREM Foundation and Earthwatch, both NGOs, to deploy and test these systems in rural areas such as Bhagalpur in Bihar and Chikkaballapur in Karnataka.

'93 tanks' capacity to be expanded using ₹100 cr of Disaster Mitigation funds'

Successful implementation of these projects will help mitigate water shortages for farmers' activities

Karnataka Minister for Minor Irrigation N S Boseraju on Tuesday said that the allocation of a Rs 100 crore grant from the State Disaster Mitigation Funds (SDMF) will be utilised to enhance water storage capacity of 93 tanks in the state in the first phase.

The minister said this after the meeting with minor irrigation department officials.

"In the initial phase, the Minor Irrigation Department will develop 93 lakes. These lakes have already been identified, and authorities have been instructed to formulate detailed plans. Successful implementation of these projects will help mitigate water shortages for farmers' agricultural activities in the future," Boseraju said.

The minister also emphasised the importance of channelling rainwater into these lakes to maximise their storage capacity.

"The protection and welfare of farmers are the primary goals of our government. The department will take necessary steps to enhance the water capacity of the lakes, improve groundwater levels, and thereby support our farmers," he added.

Noting that in 2023, a total of 223 taluks were declared drought-affected due to insufficient rainfall, the minister said the monsoon this year is forecast to bring substantial rain, and that the Minor Irrigation Department has proposed measures to the government to enhance water storage capacity and prevent future water scarcity.

The government has sanctioned a Rs 100 crore grant from SDMF for this initiative, he said. "These funds will be used to develop lakes, increase their water storage levels, and support agriculture, horticulture, and animal husbandry."

Boseraju directed officials to devise a comprehensive action plan for this purpose. **PTI**

Protests erupt over NEET paper leak scandal

AIDSO-led rally seeks inquiry; Supreme Court notice raises hopes for resolution

Agitated students and parents took to the streets at Freedom Park today, led by the AIDSO students' organisation, demanding a judicial inquiry into the recent National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) paper leak scandal. The protest aimed to bring attention to alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG 2024 examination, and they demanded strict punishment for those involved.

Addressing the protest, AIDSO State Secretary Ajay Kamath strongly condemned the NEET-UG examination scam. "We demand an impartial judicial inquiry," Kamath stated. He further criticised the growing influence of coaching mafias, saying, "These coaching institutes are obstructing the fundamental right to education. Poor students are compelled to go to great lengths to access education."

Students' organisation during the protest at Freedom Park

Kamath highlighted the negative impact of the current education system on students' mental health. "Vivekananda once said, 'Education is a man-making, character-building process,' but today we see a surge in student suicides due to the lack of value-based education. We must resist the commercialisation of education."

Bengaluru district president Apoorva also spoke at the gathering, drawing attention to the scale of the issue. "More than 24 lakh students across the country wrote the NEET exam. Before the exam, the question paper was leaked, leading to the arrest of around 13 people. Shockingly, four students who were supposed to write the exam were also involved," she said.

Apoorva raised concerns about the integrity of the exam process, citing unusual results. "Six students with consecutive serial numbers from the same exam centre scored 720 marks, and 67 students secured full marks. This is unprecedented in NEET history and raises many questions about the transparency of the exam process," she added.

The protestors also pointed out discrepancies in the exam administration. "In some places, students were given grace marks due to delays in question paper distribution. On what basis this decision was made has not been clarified by the National Testing Agency (NTA)," Apoorva noted.

The early announcement of results has further fueled suspicions. "Declaring the exam result on June 4, ten days earlier than expected, raises many doubts," she said.

The Supreme Court's recent notice to the NTA on Tuesday, in response to a plea for a fresh NEET-UG 2024 examination due to alleged paper leak and irregularities, has sparked hope among protestors for a comprehensive investigation and resolution of the issue. **—BMB**

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Kakuro

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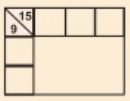

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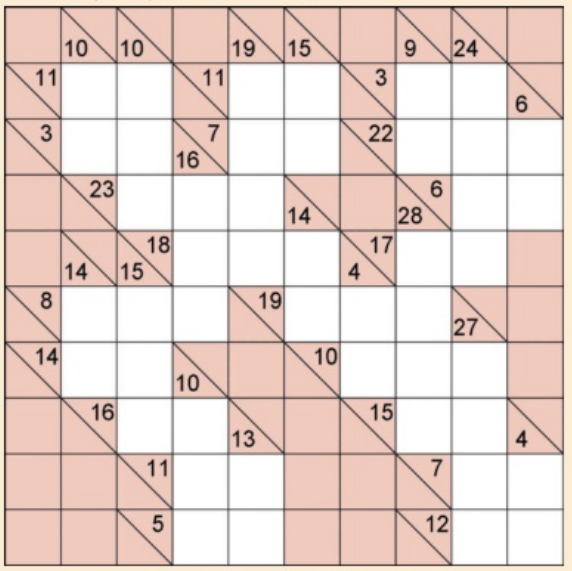

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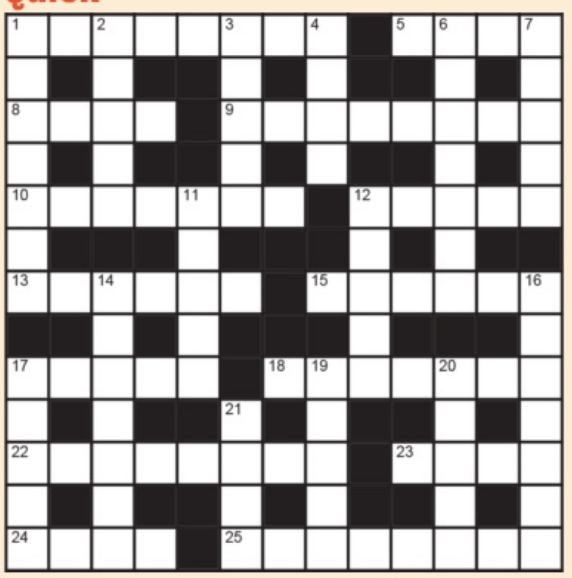

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1 Undermine (8)
5 Wild animal related to a dog (4)
8 Atop or over (4)
9 Unavoidably (8)
10 Stupefied, befuddled or distracted (7)
12 Despised (5)
13 Use an eraser (3,3)
15 Sidestepped (6)
17 Rebuffs, repulses or blackballs (5)
18 Skyline (7)
22 Dupes or tricks (8)
23 Musical symbol (4)
24 Beijing coin (4)
25 Estimator (8)

DOWN

1 Sleep (7)
2 Flourish or blossom (5)
3 Sufficient (5)
4 The hearing organs (4)
6 Unit of magnetic field strength (7)
7 Sigmund ___ : father of psychoanalysis? (5)
11 Arsenal's local rivals (5)
12 Remain at one place in the air (5)
14 Movie theatre in Gandhi Nagar (7)
16 In serious trouble? (4,3)
17 Cheeky (5)
19 Expels or evicts (5)
20 African warriors of Bantu tribe (5)
21 Mediterranean island (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: G EQUALS P

LMX SUQEK VN ABEE UA GXUGEX SMUNX OULVUO UA J NJLVNAJPLUQW ABLBQX VN, VO AJPL, J QXLBQO LU LMX VKXJEVNXK GJNL.

Linemaro

I am writing a phone book. Can I have your number?

Mindchow

Money and success don't change people; they merely amplify what is already there

Joke of the day

My friend told me an onion is the only food that makes you cry, so I threw a coconut at his face

Loop

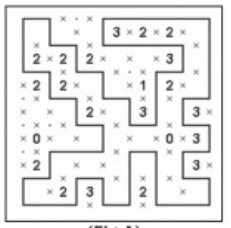
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

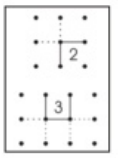
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

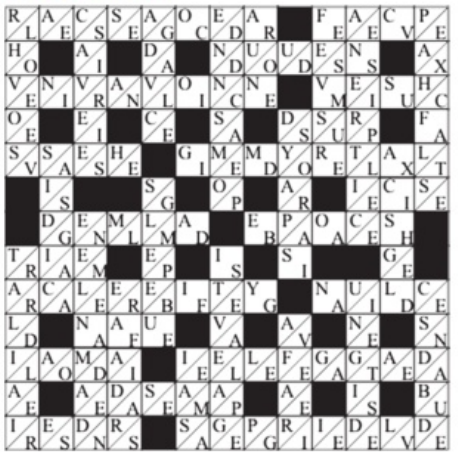


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

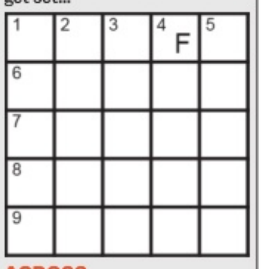
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

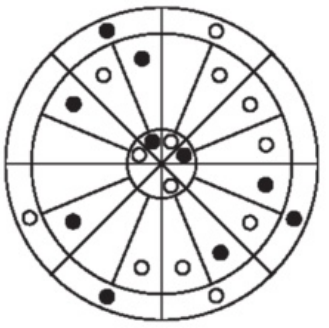
1 FT the; 6 I home; 7 Verso; 8 Terne; 9 Pay DD

DOWN

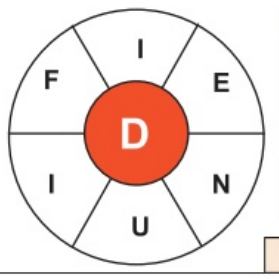
1 Port H; 2 A hove; 3 Me den; 4 Fried; 5 Et sty

Mensapuzzle

Complete the pattern in accordance with the rules of logic already established.



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

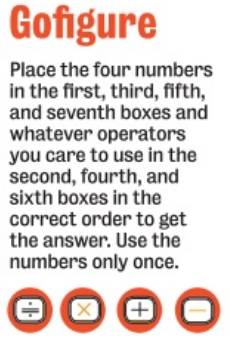
SudokuChallenge

2	1			5			6	7
	7	6				5	8	
			6		3			
6		7				8		4
			5		8			
8		5				1		2
			9		4			
	6	9				3	1	
7	8			3			4	6

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

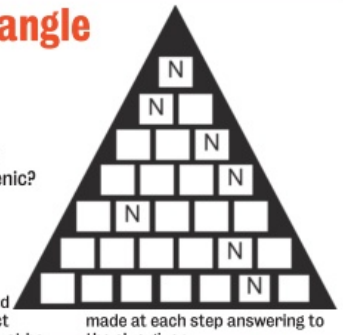
Differences: 1. Ear is smaller. 2. Ball is moved. 3. Mouth is open. 4. Hat is different. 5. Hill is missing. 6. Cloud is different.

Riddler

Nothing is in it But something is in it Nobody is in it But somebody is in it If you have it You and I are in it What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 One of the poles
2 Negative vote
3 Heir
4 Any day now
5 Pry
6 Pieces of cutlery
7 Cyanide and arsenic?

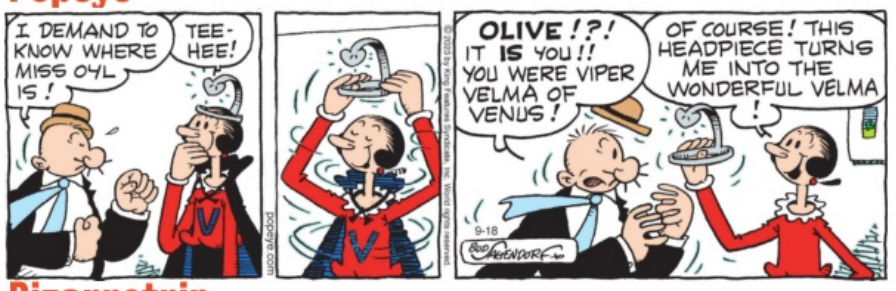


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


I DEMAND TO KNOW WHERE MISS OYL IS!
TEE-HEE!
OLIVE!?! IT IS YOU!! YOU WERE VIPER VELMA OF VENUS!
OF COURSE! THIS HEADPIECE TURNS ME INTO THE WONDERFUL VELMA!
9-18
BOB THAVES

Bizarrotrip

Wayno & 3 PIRRS. 3-9-24
I suggest a more generous donation than last week.
RUFFIAN ANGEL
BIZARRO.COM
©2024 BIZARRO STUDIOS
Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

SEEMS LIKE ALL MY CLOTHES SIZES ARE GOING UP.
I'VE NOTICED! WE SHOULD MAKE ANOTHER STOP BEFORE WE GO HOME.
I WON'T SAY NO TO MORE SHOPPING!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

DO YOU WANT ME TO SEND YOU A TEXT WITH YOUR APPOINTMENT...?
OR GIVE YOU AN APPOINTMENT CARD?
BOTH!
I CAN DO NEW SCHOOL... BUT I NEVER REALLY GRADUATED FROM OLD SCHOOL!
BATUK & DAVIS
tombatiuk.com/books
3-9

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be blessed by the moon. You may achieve a good position after your hard work. Your working efficiency may improve, boosting your confidence. You may also meet influential people who can offer guidance to improve your life. Parent's health is under control now.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel happier; things may be somewhat better. You might plan to visit a religious place, gaining inner strength. Consider donating to religious places or charity. Expect possible overseas travel for education or work. Singles may find a suitable match.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel unhappy and dull, affecting your work. There could be delays in current projects. Separate your professional life from your domestic life to maintain harmony. Avoid adventure tours or rush driving. Lovebirds may face challenges. Job seekers might face disappointment.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may feel a positive vibe around you, with things under control. Consider starting a new business partnership and expect long-distance travel. Strengthen your bond with your spouse, fostering domestic harmony.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may excel at work, forming a good bond with your boss and possibly receiving new responsibilities or promotions. Chronic health issues may improve, and you might receive incentives for your work. Sibling disputes may be resolved, and job seekers might find new opportunities.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, focus on your children's education, perhaps planning for their higher studies. Couples may receive good news regarding kids. Consider updating your skills for a job promotion. Singles may find their soulmate. Those in education, consulting, or banking sectors will thrive.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel dissatisfied, struggling with responsibilities and facing potential investment losses. Be cautious with documents and postpone house renovations. Elderly health concerns may trouble you.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be busy at work, expanding your network and securing big business orders. Consider innovative partnerships and expect business investments. Strengthen emotional bonds with your spouse.

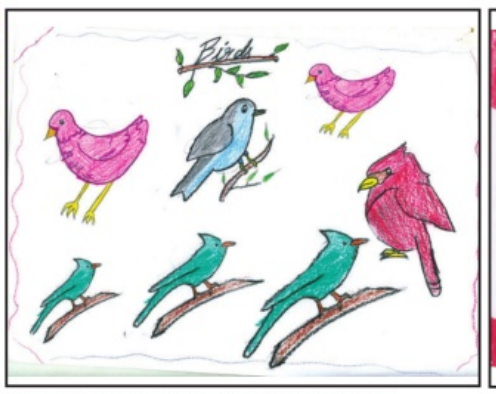
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, enjoy time with family or friends and expect new sources of income. Control unnecessary spending and invest in items that increase social status.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, seek blessings from elders and work on improving patience. Focus on goals, perform well in business and maintain a balance between expenses and savings, boosting financial health.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, dissatisfaction may affect your productivity. Lovebirds should avoid major decisions. Job seekers may face interview disappointments.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, tap into your inner strength for short-term gains. Strengthen relationships with your boss, possibly leading to promotions. Expect work-related travels and increased prestige in society.

KIDZONE



Shravya KG, 11 years, The New Cambridge English School

Raaga Akshath, 7 years, Devamatha Central School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
0.34÷1.7
= ((34/100) ÷ (1 / (17/10)))
= ((34/100) ÷ (1 / (17/10)))
= (34/170) = 1/5 = 0.2

45×2=90

0.2×90=90.2

QUOTE UNCODE
The world is full of people whose notion of a satisfactory future is, in fact, a return to the idealised past.

FAST FIVE

P	A	D	D	Y
R	E	N	E	T
O	V	E	R	S
H	O	M	I	E
T	H	E	F	T

RIDDLER
A Dictionary

STRIKE OUT

R	E	D	S		A	G	G	R	I	E	V	E		
E		E		D	E	M	A		A		I		U	
L	O	D	I		I	L	L	F	A	T	E	D		
L		N	A	E		A		A		N		N		
A	C	E	R	B	I	T	Y		N	U	D	E		
T	I	M	E		S		S		E		E			
D	E	L	A		E	P	O	C	H					
S		G		P		A		I	C	E				
S	A	S	H		I	M	M	O	R	T	A	L		
E		E		E		A		S	U	P		A		
V	I	V	A	V	O	C	E		M	E	S	H		
O		A		N	U	D	E	S		X				
R	A	C	E	G	O	E	R		F	A	C	E		

QUICK

Y	U	A	N		A	S	S	E	S	S	O	R		
S		K		B		T						O		
S	W	I	N	D	L	E	S		C	L	E	F		
A		M		E		U						E		
R	U	B	S		H	O	R	I	Z	O	N			
O		R			E		S		E		D			
R	U	B	O	U	T		E	V	A	D	E	D		
E		P		O		E								
B	E	M	U	S	E	D		H	A	T	E	D		
M		O		L		S						U		
U	P	O	N		P	E	R	F	O	R	C	E		
L		M		A		E		R						
S	A	B	O	T	A	G	E		W	O	L	F		

MENSA PUZZLE
In the three rings of dots, a white dot is always opposite a black dot and vice versa.

BULL'S EYE
dine, dune, fend, feud, find, fined, fund, nude, UNIFIED

SUDOKU

2	1	3	8	5	9	4	6	7
9	7	6	4	1	2	5	8	3
5	4	8	6	7	3	2	9	1
6	2	7	3	9	1	8	5	4
1	3	4	5	2	8	6	7	9
8	9	5	7	4	6	1	3	2
3	5	1	9	6	4	7	2	8
4	6	9	2	8	7	3	1	5
7	8	2	1	3	5	9	4	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, No, Son, Soon, Snoop, Spoons, Poisons.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 7 + 1 + 6 = 16
Medium
4 x 6 / 1 - 6 = 18
Hard
5 - 5 + 7 - 4 = 3

LOOP

KAKURO

Volume No 17, Issue No 117 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

 # Romcom, here we come
Actors Olivia Holt and Mason Gooding are set to headline the cast of the upcoming horror rom-com 'Heart Eyes'

Finding bliss

Samantha Ruth Prabhu shares glimpse of meditation session

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu delighted fans by sharing a glimpse of her serene meditation session on social media.

Samantha took to her Instagram post to drop a series of pictures from her visit to Sadhguru's Isha Foundation.

Sharing the pictures, she wrote, "So many of us search for a Guru or mentor. When you find one with the intensity, perception, and compassion to light up your life, it is a rare privilege."

She added, "If you want a piece of wisdom, you have to search in the world. Because everyday things are being thrown at you, it's become easy. You're thinking... You're thinking this is normal. This is not normal. You must work hard for it. And just knowing is not enough. Implementation of this knowledge is what truly matters." In one of the pictures, Samantha is seen meditating on the ground alongside many other devotees. Dressed in a simple black kurta set with minimal accessories, she looked ethereal.

On the work front, Samantha is preparing for Citadel: Honey Bunny alongside Varun Dhawan. Samantha will star in Bangaram, a film she announced on her birthday. —ANI

SANDALWOOD
SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Demon called plastic

Director Sathyanath has been busy with the post-production work of Kadamba that is touted to be a psychological horror film. The shooting of the movie was completed in 55 days in and around Tumakur and Devarayana Durga and 80 percent of its shooting was held at night. The film is expected to release in two months.

"The movie is about farmers in rural areas and how plastic and chemicals are ruining them. Kadamba is the name of a powerful demon in the Ramayana. The plastic and chemicals are considered as Kadamba of Kaliyuga. This movie narrates how difficult it is to get rid of these

things," said Sathayanath. He said the movie is about incidents that take place in two different time periods. "It is based on a true incident. It is a psychological horror," the director said.

The movie is bankrolled by Prasad Vasishta under Kunjara Films banner. Its trailer was released by producer Shylaja Nagar on Sunday.

"The trailer of the movie is quite interesting. Nowadays, it is not tough to bankroll a movie, it is tough to get audiences to theaters," said Nag.

From action to direction

Venkatesh, who debuted as a stunt master with Kaurava, has worked as a stunt master for 1,600 Kannada movies in 25 years. Now, Venkatesh aka Kaurava Venkatesh is debuting as an independent director in Sandalwood with the movie Cocaine. Its muhurat function was held at Sri Kanteerava Studios.

Actor-cum-politician BC Patil sounded the clapboard while director-cum-actor Om Prakash Rao switched on the camera. Both are playing police inspectors in the movie bankrolled by Puneeth under the Ayodhya Ram Productions banner. The movie's tagline is: The Definition of Patriotism. Venkatesh said actor Pratham has written script and screenplay for the film. "Pratham plays the lead in the film with four songs and five action sequences. We are planning to make each scene different. We are also planning to shoot for songs in Russia. I am sure Cocaine will prove entertaining,' said Venkatesh.

Pratham said the movie can become popular across the country. "The movie revolves around a container with drugs worth Rs 1,000 crore, that reaches Bengaluru on the way to Goa," said Pratham.

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17.78 cm TFT instrument cluster
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